

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152857
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 USIE-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/E:KWAUCHOPE:AB
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPPOST
-----013692 302122Z /75

O P 302058Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, SU, ET

SUBJECT: REPORT OF SUDANESE SEIZURE OF ETHIOPIAN TOWN

1. FOLLOWING REUTER STORY WAS FILED JUNE 30 DATELINED OSLO:

QUOTE: REGULAR SUDANESE FORCES YESTERDAY CROSSED INTO
ETHIOPIA AND OCCUPIED THE TOWN OF BEGI, A NORWEGIAN
MISSIONARY STATION IN THE TOWN REPORTED TODAY.

THERE WAS SHOOTING IN THE AREA, BUT THE MISSIONARY STATION
GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS SUCH AS THE SIZE OF FORCES OR VICTIMS
IN POSSIBLE FIGHTING.

A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN OSLO TOLD REUTER THE REPORTS
CAME FROM NORWAY'S CONSUL GENERAL IN ADDIS ABABA WHO HAD
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RECEIVED THE NEWS FROM THE MISSIONARY STATION OVER RADIO.

THERE WERE FOUR NORWEGIAN MISSIONARIES AND TWO CHILDREN AT
THE STATION.

ONE OF THE NORWEGIAN MISSIONARIES, HANS BIRGER NEERGAARD,
REPORTED THAT ALL WAS WELL WITH THE MISSIONARIES AND THEIR

FAMILIES BUT THAT ONE OF THEIR VEHICLES HAD BEEN SEIZED.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEWS OF THE REPORTED INVASION WAS RECEIVED VIA NORWAY'S EMBASSY IN NAIROBI TODAY. UNQUOTE.

2. ACCOUNTS OF THIS "INVASION", APPARENTLY BASED ON REUTER REPORT, HAVE BEEN BROADCAST ON NETWORK RADIO IN US SPARKING SEVERAL INQUIRIES TO DEPT. WE HAVE TREATED REPORT WITH SKEPTICISM GIVEN CONVOLUTED SOURCES OF REPORT. MAPS AVAILABLE TO DEPT. INDICATE BEGI IS SOME 48 KM INSIDE ETHIOPIA IN WOLLEGA REGION.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EITHER ADDIS OR KHARTOUM MAY HAVE RELATING TO THIS REPORT. REQUEST OSLO DETERMINE DEGREE OF CREDENCE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PLACES ON THIS REPORT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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